Sayalkudi on the one side and from Ramnad to Devakottai Road *via* Devipattinam, R.S. Mangalam on the other Side;

(c) whether any survey has been conducted; and

(d) if not, by when it would be taken up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU) : (a) A large number of new line projects have been taken up which on completion would provide connectivity to new areas.

(b) and (c) No, Sir.

(d) Survey is not sanctioned. No time schedule is feasible to be given.

Rail projects of North Frontier Railway

2082. SHRI URKHAO GWRA BRAHMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the reason as to why the electrification of railway lines has not been done yet in any portion under N.F. Railway;

(b) the stipulated time if any, by when the conversion of metre gauge from Rangiya to Murkhongselek rail line would be started; and

(c) the extension of double railway line from New Bongaigaon to Guwahati, if any time has been stipulated for its completion?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU) : (a) Electrification of Indian Railway network is generally done after considering the operational and financial viability of the sections being proposed for electrification and also taking into account the traffic density in terms of Gross Million Tonnes being carried in the section. In this regard, sections wherein there is a heavy flow of freight traffic are also the sections having higher Gross Million Tonnes. Accordingly, these high-density corridors have got preference in electrification. Kathiar-Guwahati section of Northeast Frontier Railway which is a part of Lucknow-Barabanki-Gorakhpur-Barauni-Kathiar-Guwahati high density route has been identified as one of the such routes to be taken up for electrification during the 11th Five Year Plan.

(b) The work of gauge conversion of Rangiya-Murkongselek Metre Gauge line to Broad Gauge has already been taken up. The detailed survey on

Rangiya-Rangapara North has been completed and detailed estimate sanctioned.

(c) The work of doubling between New Bongaigaon-Guwahati is not sanctioned.

New railway zone in Kerala

2083. SHRI ABDUL WAHAB PEEVEE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any representation from the Kerala Government for a new railway zone in the State; and

(b) if so, what is the response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) New Railway Zones are set up keeping in view the factors like size, workload accessibility, traffic pattern and other operational/administrative requirements etc. consistent with the needs of economy and efficiency and not on regional considerations. The proposal for creation of new Zone, in Kerala, when examined in the light of these considerations, has not been found feasible.

Crime in trains

†2084. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that incident of looting and violence with passengers travelling in long distance trains are increasing;

(b) whether his Ministry in formulating any scheme to spend more amount on this, in order to tigthen security in the trains;

(c) the main cause of the looting and violence, etc. in the trains; and

(d) whether Government are contemplating to deploy lady Police in the coaches reserved for ladies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU) : (a) No, Sir. there has been a decline in the number of incidents of

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.